

U.S. Prints 75,000 Textbooks Daily As Part of Anti-Red Viet Program

PAT 1/30/4

Los Angeles Times

MANILA — The United States Information Agency's Regional Service Center here, one of the largest and most modern printing plants in Southeast Asia, is turning out 75,000 Vietnamese school textbooks every day.

The program, started last fall and set up to produce a total of 4 million textbooks for South Viet-Nam schools, is an undramatic but important part of the United States effort to prevent a Communist takeover in that country.

The texts, on such subjects as health, history, handicrafts

and civics, will, it is hoped, fill a vacuum which has existed almost from the departure of the French in 1954. No new schoolbooks in the Vietnamese language were published there after until this American project got going about eight months ago. Because of the

crash nature of the program, the texts are mostly reworked versions of the French originals.

The Agency for International Development (AID), in co-operation with the South Viet-Nam Ministry of Education, is responsible for the project.

The Regional Service Cen-

ter was established by the USIA 15 years ago when printing facilities in Southeast Asia were almost non-existent. The Center prints materials in Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Malay and Tamil besides English. The offset printing process is used.